



HALMATURUS MANICATUS, *Gould.*

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Black-gloved Wallaby.

HEAD, NECK, AND FOREARM OF BOTH SEXES, OF THE SIZE OF LIFE.

EVERY naturalist who has diligently worked out a monograph of any group of animals must have observed that while some conspicuous feature, either of colouring or marking, pervades all the species, it is much more strongly developed in some of them than in others; in one, perhaps, it is only faintly indicated, while in another it is bold and decided. Now, there is a tendency in all the Wallabys to a blackish brown or black colouring on the hands or the tips of the ears: in some this colouring occurs on both; in others it is confined to the hands alone. The present animal, which is a native of Western Australia, may be cited as the species in which this character is carried to its maximum; for if its fore feet and the tips of its ears had been carefully dipped in ink, they could not be of a blacker hue, nor could this colouring terminate more abruptly. That there is no special end or purpose for the fantastic markings of the Kangaroos and many other animals, beyond mere ornament, I think there cannot be a doubt. Nature revels in variety, as may be seen in the stripings of the various species of Zebra, the fantastic markings of the Antelopes, the banding of the Perameles, and a thousand other creatures. I make no apology for giving full-sized heads of this very pretty species, the peculiarity of whose markings is not so apparent in the reduced figures.



HALMATURUS MANICATUS, Gould.

Black-gloved Wallaby.

Macropus (Halmaturus) manicatus, Gould in Proc. of Zool. Soc., Part VIII. p. 127.

Halmaturus manicatus, Ib. Mon. of Macropodidæ.

Macropus (Halmaturus) Irma, Waterh. Nat. Hist. of Mamm., vol. i. p. 117 *.

Goörh-a, Aborigines of Perth, and

Quär-ra, Aborigines of the interior of Western Australia.

Brush and Blue Kangaroo of the Colonists of Western Australia.

It must, I think, be admitted, that generally a degree of elegance and beauty reigns among the indigenous animals of Australia, and the present species may be cited as an instance in point; the size, form and colouring of this Kangaroo presenting a combination of elegance and beauty; while its jet-black hands and feet render it so conspicuous, that there is no other species with which it can be confounded, except its near ally the *Halmaturus Greyi*, from which, however, it may at a glance be distinguished by its darker-coloured face and nape. To what extent this pretty animal ranges over Western Australia has not been ascertained, but we know that it is very generally diffused over every part of the colony of Swan River, wherever sterile and scrubby districts interspersed with belts of dwarf *Eucalypti* exist; from these retreats it occasionally advances to more open grounds, to feed upon the grasses which there occur in greater abundance than in the glades of the forest.

Mr. Gilbert informs us that it may be ranked among the fleetest of its race; that it requires dogs of the highest breed to capture it, and that a full-grown male weighs nearly twenty pounds. The flesh forms an excellent viand for the table, and the skins manufactured into rugs are extensively used by those whose avocations and mode of life lead them to spend much of their time in the bush.

The sexes are alike in colour and similarly marked about the hands and feet, but the female is always much smaller than the male.

General colour of the upper surface of the body deep grey, produced by the admixture of black and white, the hairs being black at the tip, and annulated with white near the tip; sides and under surface of the body paler grey, tinted with buff-yellow; this yellow tint is almost pure on the abdomen between the hind legs, on the feet and inner side of the ears: the upper surface of the head and muzzle are of a soot-like colour, and the occiput and back of the ears, as well as the apical portion in front, are pure black; a yellowish white line is observable on each side of the muzzle, commencing at the tip, and running backwards beneath the eye; the fore half of the hands and feet are pure black, appearing as if they had been dipped in ink or some other black liquid, the black not blending, as usual, with the pale colour of the hind part of the feet, but terminating in an abrupt line; the greater portion of the tail (which is well clothed with harsh hairs) is of the same black colour; at the base, however, it is coloured as the body; and on the upper surface, for a considerable distance from the base, the black hairs are more or less annulated with whitish, producing a grizzled appearance: on the chin is a small black patch.

	Female.	
	feet.	inches.
Length from the nose to the extremity of the tail	5	0
„ of tail	2	3
„ „ tarsus and toes, including the nail		8 $\frac{3}{4}$
„ „ arm and hand, including the nails		5
„ „ face from the tip of the nose to the base of the ear . . .		5 $\frac{1}{2}$
„ „ ear		3 $\frac{1}{2}$

In one of the accompanying Plates the head and fore-arm are represented of the natural size; while the reduced figures represent the entire animal.

* Mr. Waterhouse considers that the *Macropus Irma* of M. Jourdan may be synonymous with this species, but this is by no means certain; for upon purposely visiting Lyons to clear up this point, I did not find the animal in the collection of that city, and M. Jourdan informed me that his description was taken from a specimen in the Museum at Paris, where also I could not find it.